

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 16-20 and 22-27 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,438,247 to *Cipolla et al.*; claim 21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cipolla*; and claims 28-30 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cipolla* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,454 to *Shreve et al.*

Through the above amendments, the applicant has cancelled claims 16-30, and added new claims 31-38. Independent claim 31 corresponds substantially to original claims 22 and 23, and new claims 32-38 correspond substantially to original claims 24-30.

Independent claim 31 of the subject application is directed to a handfree-set for mounting on the safety belt of an automotive vehicle comprising a microphone, the microphone provided at the side of the microphone facing the belt with contacts for contacting counter-contacts which are provided on the belt and connected to conducting filaments which are woven into the belt and are designed as connecting conductors in the form of metal filaments or strands which lead from the counter-contacts to an electronic circuit, and fastening plates arranged at both sides of the belt and connected to one another through an opening in the belt in a non-rotational manner with respect to the belt, the counter-contacts being mounted on the fastening plate at the microphone side and connected through said fastening plate to said conducting filaments.

Cipolla is directed to a seatbelt microphone mounting. *Cipolla* discloses a slider member 8 which is positioned on a seatbelt 1 and a microphone 9 mounted to the slider. The conducting wire (microphone wire 14) passes around the seatbelt to the reverse side of the slider, where the

microphone wire is fastened to the slider by a retainer such as a clip 18. See Col. 3, lines 3-55 and Figs. 2 and 3 of *Cipolla*. Further, the microphone wire 14 passes through clips 29, 30, 31 and 32 on the microphone wire attaching unit 26. See Col. 4, lines 4-27 and Fig. 4 of *Cipolla*.

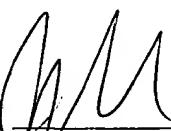
However, *Cipolla* fails to disclose conducting filaments which are woven into the belt as claimed in independent claim 31 of the subject application. The microphone wire of *Cipolla* is clearly external of the seatbelt, and is attached to the seatbelt by a number of clips. *Cipolla* does not disclose, teach or suggest conducting filaments which are woven into the belt as claimed by the applicant.

Accordingly, *Cipolla* fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 31 of the subject application. Further, *Shreve* also fails to disclose conducting filaments which are woven into a safety belt as claimed by the applicant. Therefore, independent claim 31 and its respective dependent claims are patentable over *Cipolla*, either alone or in combination with *Shreve*.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781)890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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